STERLING R. HOLT HAS AMASSED A SIX-FIGURED FORTUNE.

Started in Business with an \$11 Wagon-Some Other Enterprises He Is Now Interested In.

"There are lots of politicians who cut no ice but there goes one that cuts more ic

This remark was brought forth by the appearance in the lobby of the Grand Hotel of a man of about forty-five years, strongly and rather stockily built, whose modest attire would not distinguish him from the thousands of business men with incomes of \$3,000 or \$4,000 a year, whose mild gray eyes and smile were suggestive of anything but ice or coldness. People of Indiana know that Sterling R. Holt has been a politician of some moment, that he gradually worked into local leadership in the Democratic politics of Marion county could not subscribe to the campaign of destruction made by Bryan and resigned his Nor patron of high or low degree, position; but they do not know that he ab- To be defuly hidden and smuggled away solutely rules the ice market of Indiana. By the little light of the new-born day.

The Hoosier ice king is a product of Carolina, though he was brought to Indiana as a child and grew up inacity of purpose that has made twenty-three years ago that he invested all his savings in an outfit and launched into sisted of a second-hand grocery wagon, for which he paid \$11, and an old horse he Their sudden motion was far too slow. picked up at a bargain for \$33. He drove the wagon himself and his first great stroke since. His only superstition is in this Grand Hotel patronage,

and during the several years that he was Turn for an exit, and soon a score out of the retail business he continued to | Of brawny young fellows, in brown and gray, supply this hotel. The next year he was able to put a couple of wagons out and his ability to handle men was first displayed. Holt's icemen gave prompt service, good weight and treated their patrons with unexpected civility-and eatables and drinkables were not in the habit of disappearing from the ice chests with their visits. It was not a great while before he was doing the big ice business of Indianapolis and was able to branch out by buying up the privilege of cutting ice from Lake Maxinkuckee and launch into the wholesale business of cutting and shipping. He next extended his lines to Terre Haute, and soon was doing the business of that city. Then he obtained control of the trade at Lognasport and entered into competition with the old the retail business in Indianapolis for a few years, but returned again and now ficial Ice Company and controls the big concern known as the Holt Ice and Coldstorage Company. Control of the trade at Brazil and South Bend has fallen into his hands during the last two or three years. Like most other business men, Mr. Holt

doesn't fancy competition in his line, but he always prefers a purchase to a fight. However, he has had one or two experiences like that at Brazil, where he has found it necessary to fight, and fight hard. While he was sailing along smoothly in his business there a local company was formed and an artificial plant was put in. Holt's prices were not low, and the new company was able to sell at a considerably lower figure. They served notice on his manager that he might expect to quit in thirty days. He was much perturbed and wired Holt to come down. Mr. Holt went to Brazil and the situation was explained to him. "What rate did you say they were mak-

ing?" he asked. "Twenty-five cents a hundred," replied his

"You sell ice to anybody who will buy it at 121/2 cents," retorted Holt, "and don't

you quit until I tell you to.' Holt owned the artificial plant and he has itors are willing to agree upon a stiff schedule Holt will "tote fair" with them and character of his service to get the business, but if they will not agree or break an agreement once made, there never was a more merciless competitor than he and he will stand up to a losing fight for a year or

Ice is not Mr. Helt's only business, though he has devoted to it his chief energies for years. He once owned a drug store and it was said to be a gold mine in a small way. He is a heavy stockholder in the State Bank, and it has proven a good investment. He invested a goodly amount in the Union Trust Company, and it has proven a still better investment. He invested largely in the Grand Hotel, and the liberal management of Thomas Taggart has pulled the property up and made it a popular and paying hotel. In his business career Holt has never met "friendship" investments where he put in anywhere from \$100 to \$1,000, more to please the friend who happened to ask him to take stock than with any hope of making any-

In politics Holt has been a power, and he and Taggart, when they pulled together, made a strong team. They had things their own way in Marion county and the city of Indianapolis from 1888 to 1894. They expended money liberally and went at things with a dash that occasionally took the breath away from their friends as well as their opponents. The last campaign found them together as gold men at the start, but Holt finally found "push" too much for his stomach and retired. Clear judgment, quick, decisiveness, liberality with money, a stubborn pertinacity that nothing can shake and a somewhat remarkable ability in commanding the loyalty of men have been the characteristics that have been chiefly instrumental in winning success for Hoit in both politics and busi-

A Glimpse of Rosa Bonheur.

W. A. Coffin, in the Century. Mr. Vanderbilt and Mr. Avery went down to By one morning to see Mme. Rosa Bonheur at her country place, on the outskirts of the forest of Fontainebleau. Her wellappointed trap met them at the station, and carried them to the house in time for luncheon. Mme. Bonheur poured out their wine for them herself, and they talked of the forest and the beautiful surroundings "Yes," she said, "but I hear them cutting down trees in the forest sometimes, and every blow of the ax hurts my heart." She had met Mr. August Belmont, and had received commissions from him to paint two pictures when he was United States minister at The Harrie. She had told him that she was ex-

ceedingly busy and couldn't paint them very soon, and he said: "How long must I wait? One year-two years? I am getting old, and I want them soon." She asked him how old he was, and when he said, "Seventy-one," she replied. "That is my age, too." So she shook hands with him, and told him she would paint the pictures for him at once. More Ropheur retures for him at once. Mme. Benheur related this incident to her visitors, and added: "Mr. Belmont is a great Democrat, isn't he? When will be be elected President of the United States?" She evidently thought his character. thought his chances were very good, but Mr. Vanderbilt told her he thought they were about as good as his own, and his he considered painfully small; so Mme. Bonheur was enlightened on American politics. "At this time," says Mr. Avery, "she did not seem at all old. She had a refined, womanly face and a very sweet voice. womanly face and a very sweet voice. Her temperament was bright and gay, and her

An Old-Time Christmas at the Country School.

It was Christmas morn at the country school;

But the master was up with the dawn that day The floor to sweep and the copies to write;

To shape into pens for the "scholars" use. He bore a great pack, like Santa Clause,

He had things to carry no boy must see,

When Phoebus, winking through vapors cold, and he is not likely to again hold | Had hung the trees with silver and gold office, but so long as there are hot | And slyly peeped in at the schoolhouse door

The pens were mended, the sums were done, The copies were written and imps of fun Were dancing a jig in the teacher's eyes As he thought of the children and their surprise When-but whence this unusual din,

And why do the boys come rushing in, And the girls and wee ones tremble and wait As for some direly impending fa'e?

Now the flerce mob cries for a Christmas treat, For apples and cider and something sweet: But the master assumes a judicial air And hears their plea and denies their prayer. Slyly adding, "When pleas are lost

Proceedings are taxed to the loser's cost, And so, as the matter is plain and clear, Break the ice again and the dose repeat They end their words with a rush, but lo!

Left the window open for sun and air Leaped through the opening and made a dash Into the forests and over the hill, Racing away with a right good will.

For the master had, with unusual care,

Are chasing the teacher who runs away. They follow and follow with laugh and shout As the master goes dodging in and about Among the trees and through tangled nooks, But they cannot hem him with all their skill For when they are swiftest, he's swifter still,

And the boys get hung, and what'll we do?" Then the tears break out into fresher streams

And the grown girls weep till their eyes are red,

And pushes amain for the schoolhouse door.

As he raps with his ruler and twice repeats, In strong, full tones, the command, "to seats." All hot and panting and short of breath, Save for the noise their breathings impart And the throbbing of many an anxious heart. From the righteous rage that involves them all Then, presto! the master says, speaking low,

'It is Christmas morn, as, I think, you know, "And Christmas, that cometh but once a year, Is a time for happiness, time for cheer, A time for good gifts, for the old books say That 'the good Lord Christ He was born to-day. "And His spirit is born in our lives anew In every good work that our weak hands do. In all things gentle and kind and pure It comes with the love that shall all endure.

'Yet this 'day of days' is the day we make Our very best gifts for the dear Lord's sake. And 'give and forgive' is the thought we praise

"Of something I found this morning;" and while

He stooped to remove some boards in the floor, Brazil, but when the next season opened | Quick whispers were heard, then an audible roar, A bag and a basket of marvelous size All packed and crammed full as ever they'd hold Of famous red apples and oranges gold, With candies and kisses and nuts from the South, With cakes from the baker's that melt in th

And raisins and figs and a pocket of dates And other good things, and, to serve them for

Two quires of brown paper to make up and twirl into full horns of plenty for each boy and girl; And last, but not least, all their hearts to delight. I'wo brown jugs of cider came bumping in sight. "Now, four of you plaintiffs who lost your bad

And four of you lassies, whose tears were ap-Come forward and make up and gather and fill

A horn for each 'scholar,' well taxing your skill "In the four primary rules, of all members the To make each equal each and none less and none

And to pass them out bulging with Christmas joy To gladden the heart of each girl and each boy.' So ordered the master, and thus it was done.

And all faces with sunshine were now overrun; All hearts were as thankful as hearts ever be, As morning to noon hurried on merrily, And the old browny water gourd eagerly sped From lip to glad lip, still replenished and fed With a beverage fit for the gods of old. From the great jugs poured in a flood of gold.

The boys were dismissed to the woods full soon For "town ball" was "topic" that afternoon. While a wee lassie sat in the master's seat And sang as the girls danced "weevily wheat." Thus fared it one Christmas of long ago,

And now that the master is lying low, Where blossoms blow and the white snows fall, That holiday seemeth the best of all

We ever have known, and our hearts beat still To the lessons wrought by the master's skill; But never again shall the old boys meet To "duck the teacher" or make him treat, -Benjamin S. Parker.

OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

The first patent was issued to Samuel Hopkins in 1790 for making "pot or pearl A standing army was first established in England in 1638 by Charles I, but it was declared illegal.

British postal correspondence with the United States last year was 41,000,000 letters, etc., against only 65,000,0000 with Eu-The greatest taxpayer is tobacco. In the last twenty-seven years this product has paid a tribute of \$1,000,000,000 to Uncle Sam

The population of the earth at the time of Emperor Augustus is estimated at 54,-900,000. It is estimated now to be about Probably the monastery of La Grande Chartreuse, which lies fourteen miles from

Grenoble, among the French mountains, is the oldest industrial firm in the world. This monastry was founded about 1'80.

Bookkeeping was first introduced into England from Italy by Peele in 1569. It was derived from a system of algebra published theater in New York as a rule. This is a blessing both to men who wish to see the

Cremation is more extensively practiced | in Italy than in any country. The first crematorium was established in Milan in

1876, and there are now fifty in operation | 💠 in Italian territory. A mad dog does not foam at the mouth from the mouth is small in quantity, brownish in color, and hangs about the

The two most expensive perfumes are the roses, and the oil of jasmine. The former when quite pure costs very nearly \$50 per | **

of the modern writing pen is 636. Steel pens were first made by Wise, in England, in 1803. Quills, however, were used for writ-Of all the cities New York has the largest

number of Irish, 190,418; of Germans, 210,723;

of Russians, 48,790, and of Italians, 39,951. The children born of foreign parents in this country are not included. pulverized mineral material are now used as a basis for concrete instead of stone in several Prussian towns. They are fireproof,

and impervious to dampness. A grocery firm of Liverpool, England, recently sent out circulars announcing the sad death of a partner, and on the blank page gave the current prices for bacon, eggs, butter and other staples dealt in by

A receiver was recently appointed for a straw matting manufacturing concern in New Haven, Conn. The company has been | ** unable to meet Japanese competition, and some months ago thought of removing its works to Japan

Strikes occurred centuries ago, and their outcome was just as disastrous as is that of the present day work struggles. In the year 1329, says an old paper, a strike of brassworkers was initiated in Breslau, Silesia, which lasted a year.

The Roman Saturnalia were held at the season corresponding to our holiday period. The Roman festival was characterized by were free to speak and act as they pleased,

in China nearly fifty years before the Chris-150 years after Christ paper was first made. The late Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson ffirmed that the skin of the reindeer is so impervious to the cold that anyone clothed such a dress, with the addition of a blanket of the same material, may bear the intensest rigors of an arctic winter's The strangest saloon in the world is a

tavern in Hendon, England. It stands in | ** the center of an old churchyard, and ancient tombstones surround it. It is many hundreds of years old, and is the only licensed beer saloon in the neighborhood of

**

Harley Stockstill, of Maplewood, O., aged fourteen years, blew his brains out with a because his parents refused his request to accompany them to visit neighbors. He placed the muzzle of the gun in his mouth and discharged both barrels, tearing his head to pieces. The greatest of all luxuries in central

salt with his victuals is the same as saying that he is a rich man. Mungo Park says "the long-continued use of vegetable food creates so painful a longing for salt that no words can sufficiently describe it."

is the amount of money lying idle in India in the shape of hoards or ornaments. In Amritsar, a Punjab city, there are jewels | ** to the value of \$10,000,000. A wealthy jewel merchants of Benares has, it is said, alsouthwestern part of Louisiana. It extends miles east and west. It was bought in 1883 by a syndicate of Northern capitalists, by whom it is still operated. The fencing is said to have cost \$50,000. Rice, sugar, corn The city of Peking contains what is un-

doubtedly the oldest university in the It is called the "School for the Sons of the Empire." The antiquity of the college is very great, and a granite register consisting of stone columns, 320 in number contains the names of sixty thousand graduates of the highest degrees.

Although in Austria women have but few rights, they cannot under any circumstances be imprisoned or condemned to death; instead, after sentence has been pronounced upon a woman, she is sent to a convent and kept there a certain number of years. There is no prison discipline, only that of the ordinary conventual life.

The pastor of the Limestone, Me., Episcopal Church hired contractors to move the church to a more convenient location. and then went away on his vacation. When the church struck the middle of the public street the money gave out and the minister failed to return. Now the selectmen have attached the church and will sell it at auction to pay the cost of getting it out of

> HUMOR OF THE DAY. Comforting.

Chicago Record. "And now they say that genius is a dis-"Don't let that scare you; you look per-

fectly healthy.' Inherited.

Cleveland Plain Dealer. "What taking ways that Miss Trimble "Yes, her grandmother was one of the best known kleptomaniacs in the county."

Kept Well.

Amateur Humorist-That's a pretty good Experienced Editor-Well, it is just as funny now as it ever was.

No More Danger.

New York Journal. "Have you heard the latest from Brooklyn?"
"No; what is it?"

"They are putting fenders on the baby Flattering to the Picture.

Roxbury Gazette. Artist-I flatter myself this last picture of mine is an excellent one.

Another Artist—My dear fellow, you don't flatter yourself half as much as you flatter

With Closed Doors.

Detroit Free Press. She-I'm learning a lovely skirt dance, but of course I don't let anyone see me. practice in a room all by myself.

He-Ah. I see. You follow the Australian ballet system. On the Rise.

Cleveland Leader. Mr. Dunkley-I guess the Boswells will b getting right into the swim now. Mrs. Dunkley-Why? Mr. Dunkley-They've quit paying cash for what they buy.

Her Reason.

Lady-But it seems to me you ask very high wages when you acknowledge that you haven't had much experience. Bridget-Shure, marm, ain't it harder for me when I don't know how?

The Kind He Preferred. Chicago Tribune.

"Tommy, you have had all the turkey that is good for you." "I want some more, mamma." 'Let me give you some angel food, dear. "All right. Give me another wing."

Cause and Lffect.

Boston Transcript. Fuddy-There's that Miss Rixter over there. She is rather good looking, but they say she is very cold to the men she meets. Duddy-But what could you expect from a young woman with a cool hundred thou-sand in her own right?

"I am happily able to prove," remarked the counsel for the defense, "that my client

is a kleptomaniac. To that end, if it pleases the court, I submit in evidence the deeds in her name of \$100,000 worth of unincumbered real estate and gilt-edged securities to the amount of another \$100,000. We rest." The jury found a verdict of acquittal without leaving their seats.

Detroit Tribune.

A Victim of Economy.

Washington Star.
"Of course," she said, "I'm going to give you a nice necktie for Christmas." "Are you?"
"And I don't want you to treasure it up
the way you did the others. You'll wear

this one, won't you?" "Yes." he answered, in a voice that was full of sincerity. "I will wear it—unless times get a good deal better than they are

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For the Next Four Days Christmas Presents of Practical Worth

It does not require a Websterian head to grasp the economy and common sense of purchasing useful as well as ornamental Holiday gifts. The best gift is that which gives the greatest benefit to the greatest number of persons. Therefore, when a member of the family receives an article of Furniture or Household Wares he is able to share his possession with others and without depriving himself of the exquisite pleasures as recipient.

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Rockers

Another great lot of Rockers from hard-pressed manufacturers at about 50c on the dollar-Mahogany, Birch and Oak, polished—Cobbler, Wood and Upholstered seats.

\$2.50 for \$5.00 Rockers. \$3.50 for \$7.50 Rockers. 84.25 for \$8.25 Rockers. \$5.50 for \$11.00 Rockers. \$8.00 for \$16.50 Rockers. \$9.75 for \$20.00 Rockers.

Parlor Furniture

5-Piece Silk Tapestry, Mahogany 835.0 4-Piece Silk Damask, Suite...... \$25.00 Odd Chairs half usual price.

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Sideboard \$39.00

Ladies' Writing Desks

Of Mahogany, Curly Birch and Quartered Oak-Empire, Colonial style, hand carved and polished. Solid Oak, polished..... Mahogany, polished.... \$3.75 for \$8.00 Desks. \$6.00 for \$12.50 Desks. \$8.50 for \$19.25 Desks.

\$10.25 for \$22.75 Desks. Lamps and Onyx Tables

Brass Lamps, Silk Shade All our Brass and Oynx Tables at reduced prices.

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Others, \$16.00, \$18.00, \$20.00. A Rug Revolution

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